

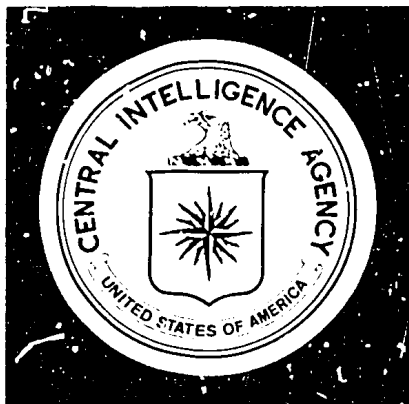
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# Weekly Surveyor

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TSWS-21/75  
27 May 1975

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WEEKLY SURVEYOR

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A Soviet proposal to build a dam between the Azov and Black Seas would provide a stopgap measure to the Azov's environmental disruption, but it will not solve the increasingly severe water problems of the area.

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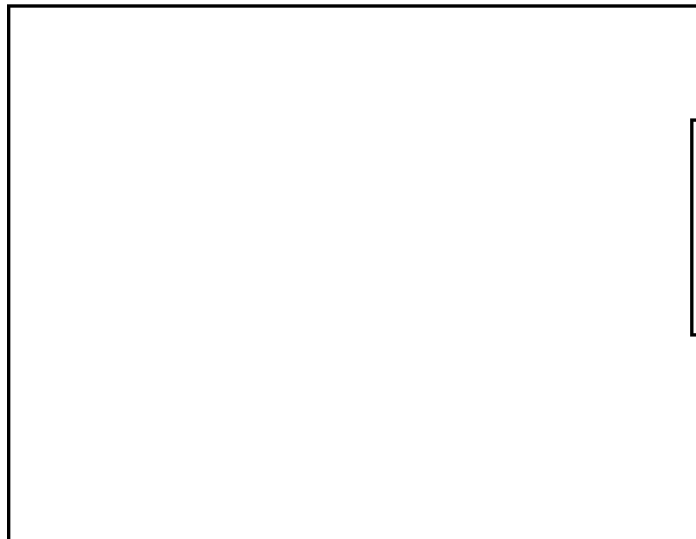
The Soviets and the Ecuadoreans have signed an agreement to establish a joint satellite tracking station at Quito. The Soviets

have been deploying a worldwide network of satellite tracking cameras to obtain data on the earth's gravitational field and the relative positions of continents. This information is necessary to compute intercontinental missile trajectories.

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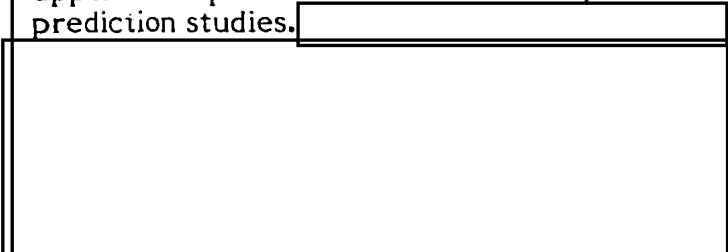
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### CHINA

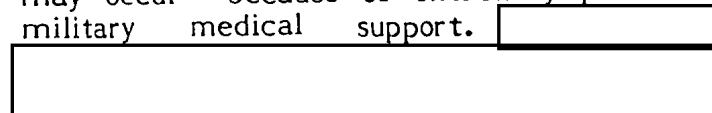
Chinese scientists recently revealed plans to launch a satellite for laser tracking in the near future. This is the first report of such a program. There has been no previous indication of a Chinese capability to use lasers for this purpose. A successful program, although limited by a lack of tracking stations outside China, could enhance Chinese G&G support in missile targeting

and eventually provide useful data for upper atmosphere research and earthquake prediction studies.



### SOUTHEAST ASIA

Large numbers of Phnom Penh residents were evacuated to the provinces for re-settlement. The Khmer Communists (KC) have forced many people to march for nearly 2 weeks without food or shelter. The lack of sanitary facilities and medical care along with hunger and fatigue can be expected to produce outbreaks of communicable diseases and to increase the rate of malarial infection up to 50 percent or more. KC forces associated with the marches will be subject to all diseases that may occur because of extremely poor military medical support.



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## LIFE SCIENCES

Communicable Disease Outbreak May Threaten Khmer Communist Plans to Evacuate Cities: On 17 April the Khmer Communists (KC) marched a large number of Khmer people out of Phnom Penh into the provinces. The marchers proceeded along route 4 for over 13 days. Only the dead were allowed to remain by the roadside. Many corpses were observed lying by the road. The marchers were given neither food nor water by the KC.

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Comment: A forced march of over 13 days without the provision of food or water and probably without shelter or medical support would be expected to exceed the physical stamina of most city dwellers, particularly women and children. Lack of sanitary facilities, coupled with lack of food and physical fatigue, could easily produce a communicable disease outbreak which would affect both the marchers and the KC. Malaria is extremely prevalent in the Cambodian provinces and particularly in mountainous areas such as those lying along route 4 in western Cambodia. Experience with malaria over the past decade suggests that up to 50 percent or more of the marchers can be expected to contract the disease and that a substantial number will die of this disease alone. Without rigorous prophylactic discipline, KC forces will also suffer high malaria rates. Medical support to KC forces always has been extremely poor, and it is unlikely that they could provide any medical support to non-KC persons even if they were inclined to do so.

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Soviets Attempt to Halt the Increasing Salinity of the Azov Sea: A recent Soviet Bloc press article stated that the Soviets are considering a plan to build a dam in the Kerch Strait between the Azov and Black Seas to halt the increasing salinity of the Azov. The dam would be located between the Chushka Spit and the Crimea at a point where the Strait is 5.5 km wide. According to the article, the dam can be built in 6 years.

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Comment: This proposal represents another radical measure being considered by the Soviets to combat water availability problems. Similar projects of this magnitude have been considered recently by the Soviets including, for example, the diversion of portions of rivers into the Volga-Ural Basin to flush out heavy industrial pollution and water transport by

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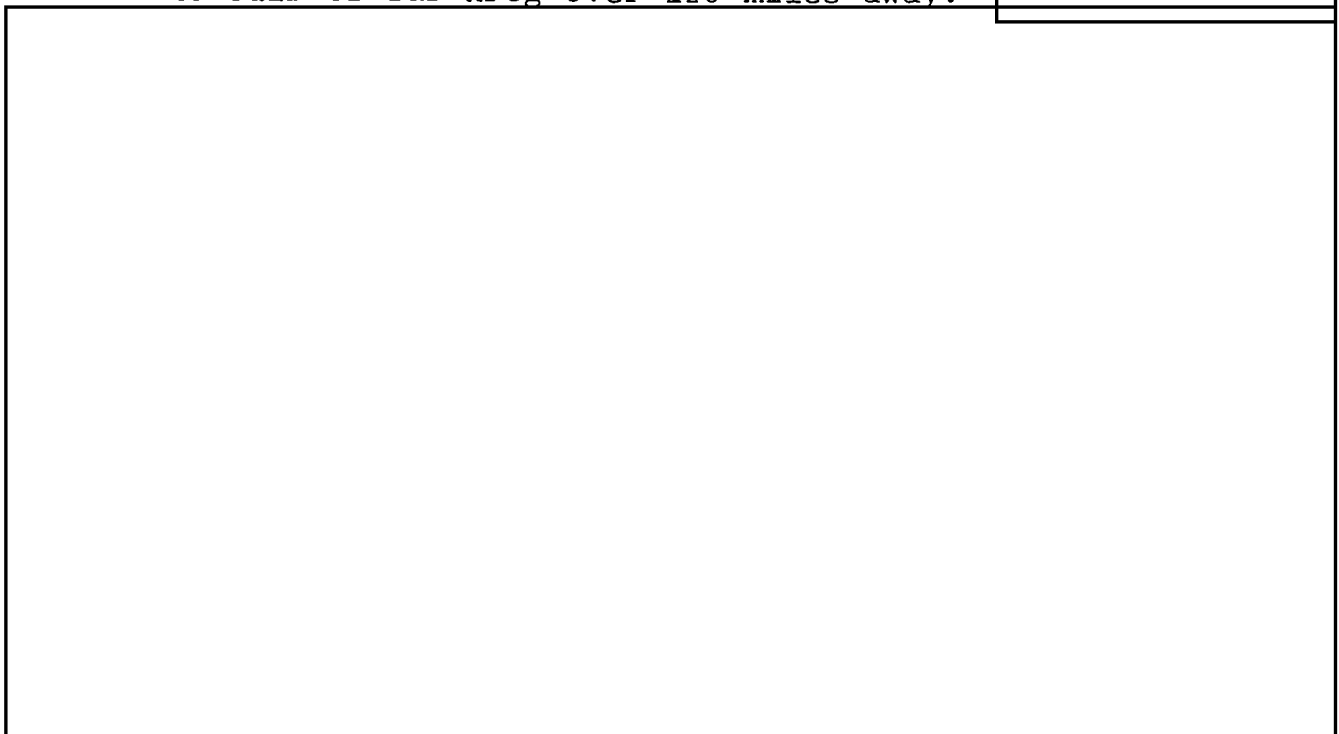
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canals from north-central Russia to the Turkmen SSR for irrigation use. These radical measures may stem from a sudden realization of the gravity of the availability problem. However, the Soviets are attempting to counteract the effects of the problem (salinity) rather than attacking the basic problem of water availability itself.

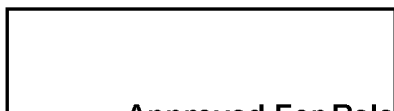
While the dam will ultimately stop the encroachment of the Black Sea into the Azov, the interim may be such that salt water species could become predominant. The output of the Don and Kuban rivers has been decreased by industrial and agricultural usage such that the Azov Sea already has become essentially a gulf of the Black Sea. Salt water marine organisms have been observed at the northern end of the Azov in the Gulf of Taranrog over 120 miles away.

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OSI-TSWS-21/75  
27 May 75



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SPACE

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Soviets to Establish a Satellite Optical Tracking Station in Quito, Ecuador: An Ecuadorean newspaper, "El Comercio," stated that an agreement has been signed between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Ecuadorean National Polytechnic School to establish a joint station for "optical observations, geodesy, and the photography of space objects."

Comment: This site will complement the known existing sites in South America near La Paz, Bolivia, and in French Guiana which are part of the USSR's worldwide optical tracking network. It will also complete a linear array of sites along a meridian (75 degrees W) starting at Ottawa and extending south through Washington, Santiago, Cuba; La Paz; and Montevideo, Uruguay, to Antartica.

The Soviets have been deploying a worldwide network of overt and covert satellite tracking cameras since about 1967 to obtain data on the earth's gravitational field and the relative positions of continents. This information is necessary to compute accurately intercontinental missile trajectories.

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China Plans to Launch a Geodetic Satellite for Laser Tracking: Chinese scientists involved in astrophysics and geophysics have stated that their observatories are equipped only for optical satellite tracking and neither laser nor doppler tracking is presently in use. They also stated that the PRC will soon launch another satellite equipped with reflectors for laser tracking to enable more precise geodetic measurements.

Comment: This is the first report of Chinese plans to launch a satellite for laser tracking. There has been much evidence, however, of the Chinese development of various types of satellites including meteorological and photoreconnaissance. Thus far, there has been no evidence of a Chinese capability to use lasers in tracking satellites, but they are aware of similar foreign programs. The Chinese may soon equip their observatories, or other unidentified facilities, for this purpose. If successful, this development could enhance the capability in geodetic and geophysical (G&G) support for a missile targeting program. At present their satellite tracking capability is limited by a lack of tracking stations outside China. Eventually, the laser observations also could be useful in studies of the upper atmosphere and China's high priority earthquake prediction program.

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Western Direct TV Broadcast Satellite System Technology to Benefit Soviets: Soviet planners responsible for telecommunications trade and development recently have expressed an interest in acquiring from Western sources direct TV broadcast satellite (DBS) system equipment.

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